Improvement of tea industry

*229. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any industrial policy for industrialization of the North-Eastern Region; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an Expert Committee to probe into the causes of deterioration of the tea industry in the country;

(c) whether Government also propose to invite suggestions from non-official experienced persons to improve the tea industry; and

(d) what is the total amount of subsidy given to the tea industry in Assam during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) In order to promote industrialization in North Eastern Region, the Government had announced North East Industrial Policy on 24.12.1997 (NEIP, 1997) envisaging various concessions/benefits like Excise and Income Tax exemption, various subsidies, etc.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government has taken various initiatives including setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) for the long-term development of the tea industry by improving the age profile of old tea bushes through replantation and rejuvenation pruning.

(c) Non-officials from various segments of the tea industry are represented in Tea Board. Their suggestions and expertise are taken into account for the development of the tea industry.

(d) During 2006-07, an amount of about Rs. 35 crore has been provided to the tea industry as subsidy in the State of Assam.

Drugs and extortion racket in Tihar jail

*230. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against Tihar jail officials for running drugs and extortion racket in the jail;

(b) whether DG (Prisons) has completed investigation into the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the corrupt jail officials involved in drugs and extortion racket togetherwith their details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Jail Authorities had received a complaint from one of the prisoners alleging running of drugs and extortion racket in the jail, which, on inquiry, was found to be false and baseless. The same prisoner had also filed a similar complaint before the Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, which is presently *sub-judice*.

Recovery of Human bones on identification of Nithari culprits

†*231. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States from where human bones and remains of human limbs have been recovered after the Nithari incident at Noida in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether police have recovered the remains, based on the identification of the Nithari case culprits;

(c) if so, the places yet to be raided in this regard; and

(d) the total number of persons arrested till date in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Such information is not compiled or maintained Centrally.

(b) and (c) The Uttar Pradesh Police and the CBI have recovered skulls and bones and biological material from the backside gallery and nala in front of D-5, Sector 31, Noida, after arrest of accused Moninder Singh Pandher and Surender Koli.

(d) In connection with the incidents at D-5, Sector-31, Noida, two persons namely Moninder Singh Pandher, owner of the house and his servant, Surender Koli, were arrested and both are in judicial custody.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.